

Administrative - Internal Use Only

DD/A Registry

File

Training

DDA 76-2550

20 May 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Training

FROM : John F. Blake
Deputy Director for Administration

SUBJECT : CIA Talks for Public Groups

1. Your memorandum of 10 May 1976 on the above subject discusses two different issues. It addresses itself to a draft memorandum entitled "Requests for Agency Officials as Guest Speakers" and, secondly, to the matter of developing themes for Agency officials who talk about CIA to the public. I should like to comment on both matters. You read the first draft of the paper on "Requests for Agency Officials as Guest Speakers." A second draft had been received prior to my receipt of your memorandum of 10 May. Some of the points raised by [REDACTED] had already been remedied in the second draft.

2. I have made Art's memorandum available to Paul Walsh and, subsequently, he and I discussed the matter. In answer to the majority of your points, Paul and I submit the following:

a. By deliberate determination the program is to be reactive and not proactive. There are sound reasons for this which include the very nature of an intelligence organization, federal statutes that prohibit propagandizing by federal agencies, conservation of resources, and others. Substantive briefings will be classified.

b. As to the point you bring up in paragraph 2, we are not persuaded that "something tighter and more precise very clearly is necessary." In the first instance it would be impossible to draft certain hard and fast rules for all matters raised in paragraph 2. Secondly, the acceptance or rejection of requests for speakers will obviously be a

STATINTL

Administrative - Internal Use Only

judgmental matter and will be up to the basic approving authorities of the Director and the several Deputies.

c. The second draft on the Agency policy clarifies and reflects you well-stated point that we will not seek any identifying information on individuals in organizations visited by an Agency officer. We do, however, have both a right and a responsibility to know something about those who we have visit us.

d. I have deleted the requirement for the Social Security Number as some people believe this to be an onerous request.

e. Insofar as you mention the Presidential Classroom for high schoolers, I believe we will have to make an adjustment for this particular group because of the magnitude.

f. Your points raised in paragraph 5 are well stated. This matter is best handled by making it a responsibility of the Deputy Directors to nominate individuals who possess the desirable subjective qualifications. This point will be addressed verbally at a 9 o'clock Morning Meeting subsequent to the Director's approval of the policy.

g. Your point of affinity that is brought up in paragraph 6 also has merit, and we will be in subsequent contact on this particular point.

h. While it is true that the Director of Training has had responsibilities on this matter, it is patently clear with the exercise we are going through that the Director wishes to transfer the major responsibility to the Assistant to the Director and exercise more personal cognizance over the program.

i. When you refer in your last paragraph to "appropriate facilities", I assume you have in mind meeting rooms. There is just no way, with the already overcrowded conditions in the Headquarters Building, that additional space can be specifically set aside for briefing purposes. I still am of the opinion that by proper scheduling this is a solvable problem.

Administrative - Internal Use Only

Paul Walsh is again revising his paper and I will get a copy of it for you when it is ready.

3. Moving on to your second suggestion, namely, what should the Agency message to the public be, I would suggest the following. I think the point is well taken and the product of Don's activity could prove most useful. Tell Don to launch ahead and I will mention his endeavors at a 9:00 A.M. Staff Meeting so that the senior level is alerted to his activities.

4. Thank you for your attention to both of these matters.

/s/ John F. Blake
John F. Blake

Distribution:

Orig & 1 - D/OTR

- ~~1~~ - DDA Subject w/cy Ref
- 1 - DDA Chrono w/o Ref
- 1 - JFB Chrono w/o Ref

DDA:JFBlake:der (20 May 1976)